Provision for uplinking Facilities

1889. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign TV channels have applied for starting their own news channel in India with the provision for uplinking facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision of Government in relation thereto;

(c) whether, before granting permission, steps have been taken to ensure that no anti-national propaganda is carried on by these channels or that such right of uplinking is not otherwise abused;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether any FDI limit has been set for the TV news channel and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The details of companies having foreign equity, who have/ had applied for uplinking of 24 hour news channels from India is given in the enclosed statement. (*see* below)

(c) and (d) The permission for uplinking is granted, *inter-alia*, subject to:

(i) Security clearance by Ministry of Home Affairs.

(ii) Compliance with the Programme and Advertising Codes.

(iii) Maintenance of records of materials uplinked for a period of 90 days.

(iv) Providing the necessary monitoring facility, at its own cost, for monitoring of the programme or content of the channel.

Besides, programmes of channels when retransmitted through the cable network are regulated by the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules thereunder. The Programme Code, as contained in Cable TV Network Rules, 1994, *inter-alia*, provides that no programme should be carried in the cable service, which affects the integrity of the Nation and/or likely to encourage or incite violence or contains anything

against maintenance of law and order or which promotes anti-national attitudes. The Act provides for prohibition of transmission of any channel or programme, in the interest of security of the country.

(e) All channels, irrespective of their ownership, equity structure or management control, are, at present, permitted to uplink from India.

Statement

Details of Companies having foreign equity who have opplied for 24 hour news schemes

Sl. No.	Name of the Companies	% of Foreign Equity	Date of Permission
1.	Jain Studios Limited	20%	4.1.2001
2.	Zee Telefilms Limited	57.54%	6.12.2001
3.	New Delhi Television Limited-(yet to commence)	16.47%	7.6.2002
4.	Star News Broadcasting	Indirectly wholly owned Limited subsidiary of STAR Group Limited, which in turn is indirectly wholly owned by The News Corporation Limited.	Under Process

Except Star News Broadcasting Ltd., all the other companies have their offices/are registered, in India and have Indians on their Boards. M/s. Star News Broadcasting Ltd. has informed that its Head Office is in Hong Kong and registered office in British Virgin Islands. The Company has three Directors-two Americans and one British.

Proposals Received for FDI in Print-Media

†1890. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of newspapers and magazines that have applied for making foreign direct investment in print media, so far;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.